



## **GEOGRAPHY**

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**KEY STAGE 3** - The Geography department deliver an exciting and engaging Key Stage 3 course for Cardinal Newman students. With a blend of both human and physical topics, students develop a detailed awareness of the world around them and their place and impact on the local, national and global environment. The course is designed to embed and develop the literacy and numeracy skills required for GCSE should the students decide to pursue the subject at Key Stage 4. Our overall aim is to use the Geography curriculum to provide our students with highly transferable skills that will fully equip them for further study but also for their future in the modern employment market. An overview of the curriculum is outlined below:

### **YEAR 7**

The Year 7 curriculum covers the following units:

- **The UK**
- **The physical landscapes of the UK**
- **The people of the UK**

The units in Year 7 focus on the Geography of the UK. They link well to those on the GCSE specification providing a basic understanding of key geographical concepts. Within the curriculum, students will be able to develop an understanding of the country in which they live, the physical processes and landforms that shape our landscape and the demographic trends which characterise our current population. Students will also have the opportunity to develop their map, photo and data interpretation skills.

### **YEAR 8**

The Year 8 curriculum covers the following units:

- **Global Issues**
- **Tectonics**
- **Africa**

The Year 8 units focus on global geographical themes. Students are provided with the opportunity to explore topical issues such as plastics in the ocean; climate change and the geography of war and conflict. In addition, they will study the theory of tectonics, the impact of tectonic activity and how this can be effectively managed. Students will have the opportunity to develop their place knowledge by studying the continent of Africa. The skills focus on how to develop and structure their extended writing using P-E-E-L paragraphing.

### **YEAR 9**

Year 9 cover part of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum. This has the benefit of allowing more time to complete the GCSE course whilst also giving students the opportunity to make a more informed option choice on whether to continue with the subject at GCSE. Students cover the Ecosystems and Changing Cities topics with a focus on developing the key skills required in preparation for GCSE study.

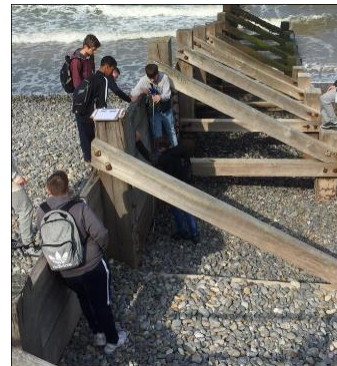


**KEY STAGE 4** – The GCSE course builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in Years 7 - 9. As well as covering traditional geography topics such as river landscapes; coastal landscapes and ecosystems, the course also includes contemporary topics such as urbanisation, sustainability and economic change. This course gives students opportunities to:

- Develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers
- Develop their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world
- Develop a framework of spatial awareness in which to appreciate the importance of place location (whether local or global)
- Appreciate the differences and similarities in people's views of the world and its environments, societies and cultures
- Understand the significance of values and attitudes to the development and resolution of world issues
- Develop their responsibility as global citizens and recognise how they can contribute to a future that is both sustainable and inclusive

### **DO STUDENTS GET TO DO FIELDWORK?**

Yes...the best way to explore Geographical concepts is out in the field. Towards the end of Year 10, GCSE students will attend a compulsory field study. This will include a physical component relating to either the rivers or coasts topic and a human component such as either central/inner urban areas or rural settlements. The field study gives students a chance to collect primary and secondary data that they can use to prove or disprove a testable hypothesis. The knowledge and experience gained from the study helps to develop student's enquiry skills whilst also enabling them to answer the fieldwork component of the GCSE exam.



### **WHY STUDY GEOGRAPHY?**

Geography is a broad-based academic degree which is well respected by employers. Geography graduates have one of the highest rates of graduate employment post-university entering a wide range of careers which include the Foreign Office, the diplomatic service; the Rivers Authority; the Met Office, the Environment Agency, town planning; transport management; politics and even law.

### **WHAT IS THE DEPARTMENT LIKE?**

The department has 4 experienced staff who are all committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for our students. Geography is a popular subject at the school with a good uptake at both KS4 and KS5. With a proven track record of good results at both GCSE and A Level, we are keen to sustain the high levels of achievement across the department and look forward to welcoming a new intake of students to the department come September.